

BLM Land within Subbasins

Indicator: Percentage of BLM-administered surface acreage within subbasins. A subbasin (also referred to as a cataloging unit or an 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC)) is an intermediate-sized drainage area within the widely accepted United States Geological Survey hierarchical system of hydrologic units. It is an integral unit in the Interior Columbia Basin assessment and subsequent management strategies as well as Unified Watershed Assessments conducted under the Clean Water Action Plan. In addition, the subbasin is used by the Environmental Protection Agency to summarize water quality ratings across the nation. The subbasin is used throughout this prototype whenever appropriate data is available.

Key Findings: There are roughly 800 subbasins in the eleven western states (excluding Alaska). Approximately 250 of the 800 contain at least 20 percent public land. The table below shows the actual number of subbasins with specified amounts of BLM-administered surface acreage.

% BLM land	Number of Subbasins
> 80	27
60 - 79	52
40 - 59	68
20 - 39	105
1 - 19	262

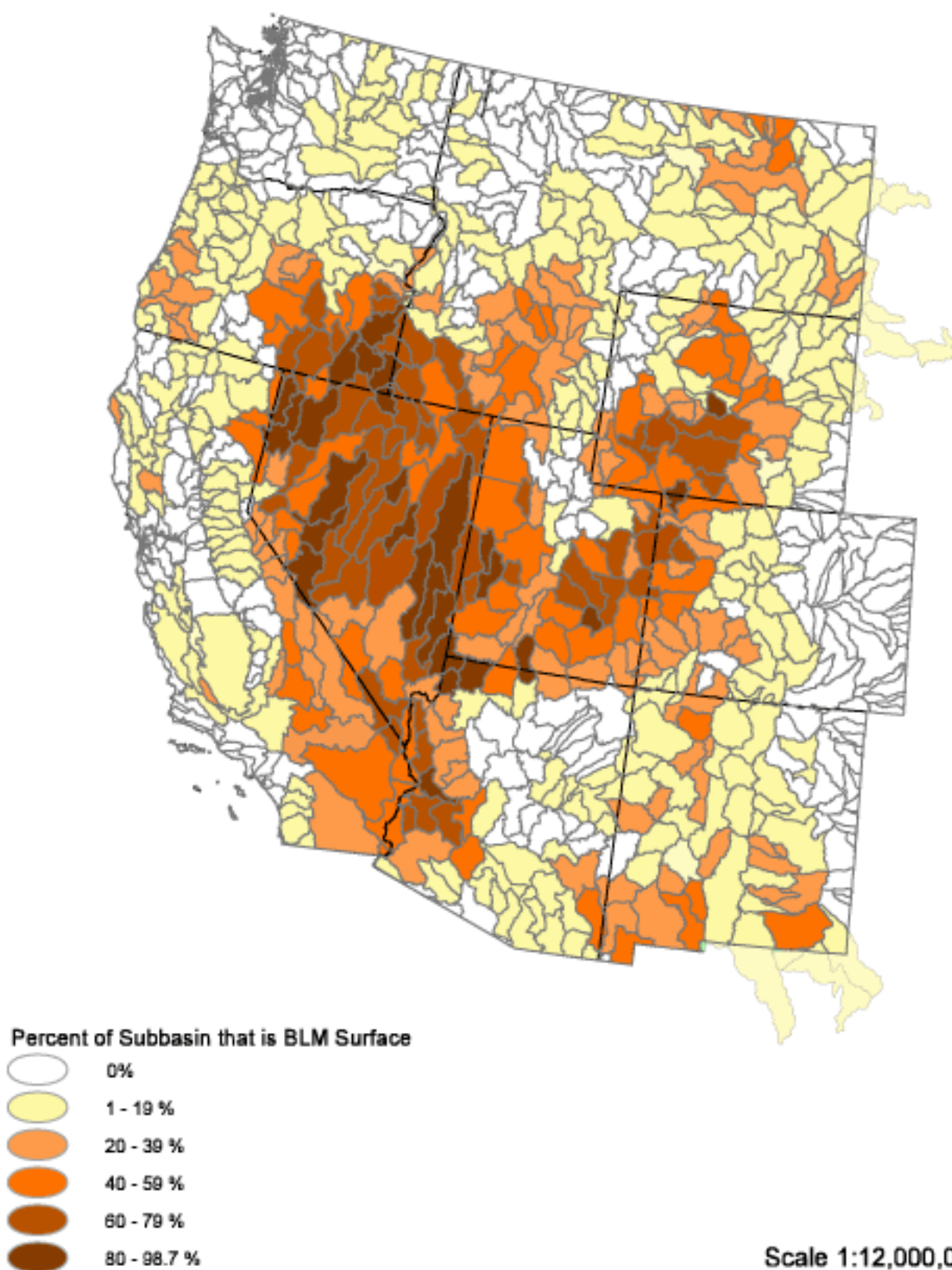
Over half (14 of 27) of the subbasins with more than 80 percent public land are in Nevada. In the 60-79 percent class, over half (30 of 52) of the subbasins are in just two states, Nevada and Utah. When all subbasins with more than 20 percent BLM land are included, nearly half are concentrated in three states: Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

Limitations: Subbasin boundaries are available from various sources which can often result in slightly different map delineations. At the scale of this prototype, however, such differences are probably insignificant.

Source: National Atlas of the United States, Federal and Indian Lands theme and Hydrologic Unit Boundaries theme: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/atlasftp.html>.

Comments: None

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